



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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EPA vs. COW

This news made me laugh when I first heard it from Gordon Ridgway—but not when I got the details from Fred and Lynn Scoville. Can you imagine all dairy barns being hermetically sealed, with air filters running 24/7 to remove the methane? Or domed manure pits for the solid waste?

Last month the Scovilles faced a real dilemma. The federal Environmental Protection Agency wanted them to sign a 16-page document acknowledging that their cows have been polluting the air, and agreeing to pay up to \$2,500 for air testing at the barn. The carrot: a promise never to be sued by the EPA (but not by the state DEP or in civil action). The stick: the possibility of their being sued down the road for as much as \$25,000 a day.

Like most Litchfield County farmers, the Scovilles are refusing to sign up with the EPA. "It's a no-win situation, no matter what you do," says Lynn, who has gone to statewide meetings to learn all she can. Particularly galling is that the farmers themselves are asked to pay for tests they see as threatening, and even senseless. ("They're asking us to fund our own demise," said one farmer at the Litchfield County meeting.)

A lot in the EPA program does seem senseless from a local point of view. Beef cattle are exempt, so while the Scovilles are asked to pay, millions of animals in Midwest feedlots

get to the slaughterhouse for free. Also, since the program involves just testing for the first 18 months, it seems as though the EPA has no clear idea that a problem even exists. And if there is a problem, mandated filters, domes, etc., may not be cost-effective solutions.

Many of us can remember when, not too long ago, there were well over 1,000 dairy cows in Cornwall. It was hard to drive anywhere without seeing a cow, and like as not the road you drove on was decorated with bovine pastry. One wonders how the farmers ever survived the methane-loaded air in winter barns—or still survive. But take a look at Fred Scoville or his son Steve. Two healthier citizens you'd look long to find. —*Bob Potter*

Leaky Legacy

Back in 1956, Gulf Oil offered to sell Liane Dunn's father its underground gas tanks beneath the apron of his Kent Road service station for one measly buck. "Such a deal!" he may have gloated. Guess again! He signed on the dotted line and so acquired title to a major money pit into which his daughter has dumped almost \$200,000—her life's savings. Less heinous crimes, robbery and assault, even homicide in some cases, have a statute of limitations but, like an Old-Testament curse, the sin of being the owner of record of rusty fuel tanks is visited on generations yet unborn.

Service stations weren't the only optimists to inter these ferrous time bombs in the wet womb of Mother Earth. In the early 1950s, when many Cornwallians began tossing out their coal chutes and shovels and lighting up their oil burners, it was common, especially in upscale homes, to bury the unsightly steel reservoirs that replaced their coal bins.

Fortunately, according to Connecticut EPA supervising environmental specialist Scott Deshefy, homeowners, unlike commercial establishments, need not fear the imminent stamp of his colleagues' boots on their doorstep and the subsequent disappearance of their nest egg into the maw of a (possibly unscrupulous) excavator's bank account—that is, as long as there are no obvious signs of a leakage problem.

For a non-commercial tank owner, the moment of truth does not arrive until his neighbors start noticing a rainbow slick floating in their water tumblers or, more commonly, until he decides to sell the property or use it as collateral for a loan. That is when the proverbial fat hits the fire.

Deshefy warns, however, that delay in remedying fuel seepage can be costly. Pollution from a leaky tank will only increase with time, as will the unregulated fees of the accredited clean-up specialists who eventually will be called in to dig up all traces of contamination and cart them off to a distant in-

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AUGUST 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall <i>Exploring Islam and the Koran</i> , 7:30 P.M. Library †	2 Inland Wetlands* 8 P.M. Town Offices	3 Family Program: Live Chess 7:30 P.M. Library	4	5 Children's Program Ages 4-8 11 A.M. Library Rose Algrant Show 5-8 P.M. CCS †	6 Rose Algrant Show 10 A.M.-4 P.M. CCS † Family Film 6:30 P.M. Library
7 Rose Algrant Show 10 A.M.-2 P.M. CCS † Annual Community Ecumenical Service 10 A.M. Village Green †	8 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House <i>Exploring Islam and the Koran</i> , 7:30 P.M. Library †	9 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	10 Family Program: Falconry/Medieval World 7:30 P.M. Library	11 Reading Roundtable Grades 3 and Up 3:30 P.M. Library	12 Children's Program Ages 4-8 11 A.M. Library	13 St. Bridget's Annual Tag Sale 9 A.M.-2 P.M. † Cornwall Association 9 A.M. UCC Day Room Thurber Readings & Video 4:30 P.M. Town Hall †
14 Forum: <i>How To Be a Constructive Activist</i> 3:30 P.M. UCC †	15 Deadline: September Chronicle Copy Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library <i>Exploring Islam and the Koran</i> , 7:30 P.M. Library †	16 Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	17 World Cup Qualifying Outing Leave CCS Parking Lot 5:30 P.M. †	18 Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib. VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	19 Agricultural Forum 7:30 P.M. Town Hall †	20 Benefit Square/Contra Dance 7:30 P.M. Town Hall †
21 Benefit Concert: Andes Manta 3 P.M. UCC	22 ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall*	23 PTA Day Trip to Lake Compounce †	24 Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	25	26 	27
28 Cornwall Association Annual Meeting 4 P.M. Library	29 Cornwall Child Center Registration 10 A.M.-noon †	30	31 First Day of School † Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	Every Week This Month: Tuesdays: Teen/Adult Volleyball , 7-9 P.M. CCS Gym Wednesdays: Stretch Class , 5 P.M. Town Hall; Tai Chi for Beginners , 7:30 P.M. CCS Gym Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers , 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room		

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

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Better by far, he cautions, to take the bull by the horns. Any bare-steel tank of the type commonly supplied before the 1970s' shift to fiberglass should be professionally filled with cement or a special type of sand or, better still, completely removed. Simultaneously, the area should be probed to discover possible signs of pollution.

Speed is of the essence (no French pun intended) if you have a rarer type of installation—an underground gasoline tank with which the garages of a few of the more palatial local homes were outfitted. Gasoline is more of a hazard than fuel oil because it is lighter and migrates more rapidly and more distantly through the earth. —Matt Collins

Housatonic River Updates

On June 28 the Housatonic River Commission (HRC) presented a draft of its new *River Management Plan* to the public.

The HRC was created in 1979 by the Towns of Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, New Milford, North Canaan, Salisbury, and Sharon to coordinate management and protection of the Housatonic River Valley on a regional basis.

Since its original *River Management Plan* in 1981, the HRC has been studying land use and environmental issues in the Housatonic River corridor. The most significant among these are the extent of PCB contamination from the General Electric plant in Pittsfield, MA, and the pressures of increased development.

The updated plan includes sections on land use, recreation management, and water quality. In each section are a discussion of existing conditions, significant issues or threats, and a series of recommendations.

The next day U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scientists came to New Milford to discuss the final versions of a Human Health Risk Assessment and an Ecological Risk Assessment.

The EPA scientists and consultants have been studying the river for the past five years under a federal-court decree. The two assessments examine the risks to humans from eating fish and waterfowl and the environmental risks of PCBs to fish-eating mammals, amphibians, and river-bottom invertebrates.

Signs posted along the river by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Department of Environmental Protection warn that pregnant women, women who plan to become pregnant, and children under six should not eat fish from the Housatonic River. The entire warning needs to be read by those who consume fish from the river.

The EPA's documents can be found at the Cornwall Free Library. The HRC's plan is at the Library and the Cornwall Town Hall.

—Lynn Fowler

What Kind of a Town Should Cornwall Be?

Half a dozen experts led off the town Land Use Forum on July 9, but the real action was with the audience.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, who organized the forum, talked of the struggle to balance development and preservation, and that struggle was a major theme of the questions and comments that followed the formal presentations. Views ranged from "protect what we have while we still have it" to "people should not be prevented from doing what they want with their own land."

A major concern of both the presenters and the audience was how to keep at least some housing affordable in a Cornwall where real estate values have been shooting up. P&Z Chairman Rick Lynn said that median sales prices of houses had tripled since 1990 and risen 40 percent in just the last four years.

Another focus of discussion was the Town Plan. The current Town Plan was drawn up by P&Z in 1998, but the state requires the town to come up with a new plan by 2008. As it now exists, the plan is an expression of intent, but it has no binding force. The new plan could be established by a town meeting, and it could have mandatory provisions. Rick Lynn foresees an extended process of public discussion as Cornwall decides what kind of a town Cornwall wants to be. How indeed, for example, do we balance preserving not only the town's land and the town's values with the development which we must inevitably face, and how do we want to get there?

Gordon said that there will be more forums, starting with one on farm lands on August 19.

—Hendon Chubb

Congratulations

Liz Van Doren to Ken Krug
Luana Santarsiero to Richard Fry

Good-Bye to a Friend

Dorothy Ripley

Land Transfers

United Investors Partnership to Greylodge Trust, four lots on Cornwall Hollow and Hall Roads for \$450,000.

Alfred G. and Patricia J. Haut to Christopher A. and Melissa M. Jeans, property at 402 Sharon Goshen Turnpike for \$320,000.

Michael Goldman to Eric Zitzman, 15.05 acres on Whitcomb Hill Road for \$97,000.

David P. and Jane D. Monagan to John M. Stewart III and Melissa Stewart, property at 31 Stone Hill Road for \$610,000.

Philip Rinaldi and Lawrence G. Katen to Gregory V. and Pamela R. Frisoli, property at 63 Popple Swamp Road for \$765,000.

Brooke D. Baxter to Robin K. Tyler, property on Rug Road for \$187,000.

Daniel S. Pool to Alexes Hazen and David Boyum, property at 41 Cherry Hill Road for \$795,000.

Joyce McMillan, Laraine Primini, Victoria Colaci, and Joseph Colaci to Mies Surdoval, property at 34 Seeley Road for \$185,000.

Jonathan and Deborah Newcomb to Michael Lefkowitz and Tatiana Nizguretsky, property at 233 Sharon Goshen Turnpike for \$655,000.

Orara Corporation Inc. to Robert G. and Audrey G. Tobin, 28 acres in Cornwall for \$240,000.

A Fish Story

A hula popper, a torpedo, a slider, a spoon: these are not weapons of mass destruction, unless you're a bass or a perch. They are a few of the many lures used to entice and capture several species of fish that live in Cream Hill Lake. Bass go for sound and splash and glitz, while a perch or pickerel seems to go for anything that moves if they're feeling hungry.

One particular day this summer stands out

for me. The weather was grey, with little streams of sun piercing the dullness now and then like pewter arrows hitting the water. The houses and trees along the lake's edge had taken on a blurred patina, everything shrouded in fog and mist. I fitted a hula popper, which is a fat, noisy lure, onto my line, and cast about 20 feet out from the boat. As I began winding in the line, while making little popping motions so the lure skips across the water, a fish hit it with tremendous force. "Oh boy," I said, "this is IT!" I generally say that whenever a fish bites, but this time I meant it. I was pretty sure I had a battle on my hands. All at once, my line seemed to slacken, and I was afraid I might have lost him, so I let down on my line a bit, then pulled steadily back, winding the whole time. I had to remind myself not to jerk the line too hard, as fish have tough but paper-thin skin around their mouths, and I didn't know how well he was hooked. As I slowly pulled him in, I realized this was not a run-of-the-mill fish, but a whopper, the one that almost got away.

All at once, the fish left the water and flew into the air, twisting from side to side in his valiant attempt to dislodge the lure. He was the most beautiful bass I'd ever caught, nearly two pounds of silver fins and gray sleekness. In size, he covered the length of my husband's arm from fingertips to past his elbow. The most wonderful thing was that he wasn't hooked badly at all. We held him up, gave him a big thank you, and slipped him back into the dark water, probably mad, but unharmed.

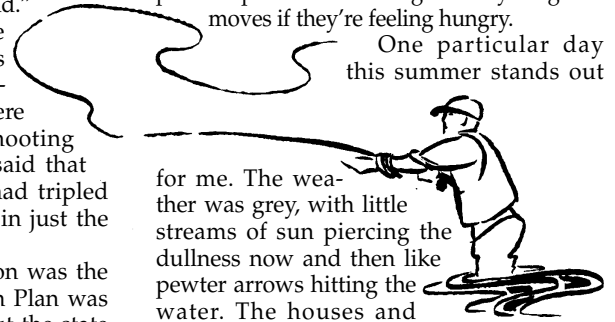
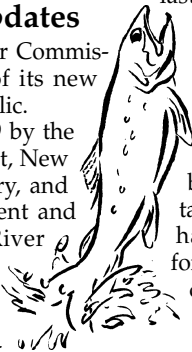
—Jane Bean

Our Junior Fire Department

Our fire department now has a junior division. There are juniors, ages 13 to 17, and junior-juniors, ages 10 to 12, who have to be the son or daughter of a CVFD member. They will be supervised by four CVFD members, but in the fall they will elect their own first and second lieutenants and other officers.

Asked why he was joining the department, Will Russ said he wanted to drive a fire truck. They told him they need more drivers, but he'll have to wait a few more years. Mary Kate Kosciusko says she likes fire fighting and wants to drill with her father, Skip. Jon Hurlburt wants to join the EMTs like his mother, Irene.

The juniors will be doing drills and help-



ing out at the Cow Chip Bingo. They are scheduled to march in the Falls Village, Kent, and Lakeville parades. If you'd like to join, you can pick up an application at the Town Hall.
—Elizabeth Ridgway

Three August Haiku

The Chronicle hasn't printed many poems, but poems are fun. Recently we came across some haiku by a self-effacing Cornwall poet and thought, "Why not?"

The first goldenrod:
Soon the "Corn \$2" signs;
Then crickets; then frost.

Mist up our valley:
Rising from the hidden ridge
A ghostly maple.

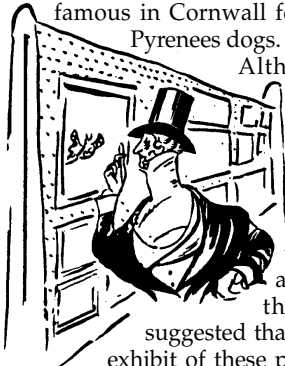
The swallows have gone:
Dragonflies in the meadow
Hawking after prey.

—Anonymous

Who Was Rose Algrant?

The Rose Algrant Show (see E&A) was named after long-time Cornwall resident Rose Algrant. Rose was born in Constantinople (now Istanbul) at the turn of the last century and educated in French convent schools. She married Leon Algrant, who had been born in Venice of Turkish parents. He was working for the Harriman oil interests in Russia where the newlyweds went to live. She returned to Turkey for the birth of their son. A few years later, Leon went to work for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, a job which eventually took him to Rome. The family emigrated to New York City in 1940. In 1942, when Rose separated from her husband, she moved to Cornwall to be close to her son, who was boarding at Rumsey Hall. Harriet Clark rented her a house on Great Hill Road. The house had neither electricity nor running water, a far cry from the homes she had occupied in her earlier life in Europe. After living in several places in Cornwall, she eventually settled on Cream Hill Road. A large group of friends, including many of the artists who would later be represented in her first show, used to gather for dinner at her home.

During the war she earned a living milking cows and goats. When there was an opening for a French teacher at Rumsey Hall, she was asked to take the job on a temporary basis. She easily adapted to this new profession and stayed for several decades. In due course Rose became a U.S. citizen. She was famous in Cornwall for raising Great Pyrenees dogs.



Although camera-shy, she often posed for paintings by her artist friends. When they complained that they needed a place to sell their work, she suggested that they mount an exhibit of these portraits. In 1959

Letters to the Chronicle

A STROLLING BEAR

On the evening of June 20, I was driving home from Litchfield on Great Hill Road and had just stopped to point out the ducks and swans at Kubish's to my daughter Elsie. As I started up again, I noticed a bear strolling along against traffic. I thought I should tell someone so I called 911 on my mobile phone and they passed me on to the State Police. The officer who took the call could not have been clearer: "There's nothing we can do unless the bear is damaging property or attacking people." "You mean...?" "Yes sir, it is just as if you saw a deer." Well, I guess we cannot put off that fenced-in garden for Elsie now. (Would that help much against a bear?)

Just a question, does Cornwall and environs have an agency that is notified of these sightings? Should we just assume that black bears are always around? —S. David Moche

Editors' note: The Department of Environmental Protection appreciates reports of bears. You can find the form to use at <http://dep.state.ct.us/burnatr/wildlife/sighting/bearrpt.htm>.



IT'S NOT ABOUT THE BEER

I am writing in response to the "Horseshoe League" article in the July issue of the Chronicle. David Grossman had some interesting statistics, but I feel he did not capture the true feeling and passion the League represents.

Many of us who grew up in Cornwall were taught the art by our parents and grandparents. I remember some of the intense games at different events during my childhood that provided the foundation for today's inspiration. Those of us who play now are committed each Thursday night during the summer to continue that same level of quality and competition our elders taught us. Oh, we have fun doing it, and some of us might have a beer or two, but it's not about the beer. It's about our love and respect for the sport, and our desire to keep a Cornwall tradition alive and well.
—Zejke Hermann

the first show, with nine artists (Nancy S. Day, Ruth Gannett, Amy and Armin Landeck, Anne Spencer Pratt, Genny and Marc Simont, Pilar Sureda, and Arlington Yutzler), took place in West Cornwall and was a rousing success. It soon became THE summer event. Family and friends pitched in to help.

Her death in 1992 did not end the legacy as Rose's friends, new and old, joined forces to continue "The Friends of Rose Algrant" art show. The show continues as a celebration of summer and art—for that we are indebted to Rose Algrant.
—Gail Jacobson

"Am I venomous? You bet your buns I am"

At the time of Bill Beecher's recent show at the Outsiders Gallery, we asked him to share some thoughts with us. When you ask Bill for his thoughts, he's happy to oblige.

"I've lived a longish sort of life, painting now for 55 years, more or less, mostly more. Maybe I'm outliving my talent; I don't know. But I'm not dead yet.

"It's a tough life out there because there are so many so-called 'graphic artists,' and so many who don't deserve the name. Only the market can determine that. Of course, the minute you mention the words 'market' and 'painting' in the same breath, there's always some moron who's going to stand up and say, 'Well, isn't that prostituting your gift, using art to bring in money?' And I say, 'Well, that's what I do.'

"It was difficult when I started out. It's bad enough to be cursed with a talent that

looks for a market in order to sustain itself, but to then try to live up to that and market your artistic product is not ever easy. There are five million people out there who all want your job. I've been lucky in one way. What I do is a little bit specialized so that what work of mine you find printed is almost always uniquely mine. [It's] not the little baby cat with one tear drop coming out of its eye. My stuff is a little more complicated than that.

"Somehow I was never faced with the problem of a first job. I was the first one ever to do a painting for a national magazine—the June 1950 issue of *House Beautiful*. It was a study of one rose in a drinking glass full of water. I was well paid, and it opened a whole new door to me because all of a sudden graphic arts became not just an expression but it became a part of what I was doing to express myself. All of us who work in the field for the most part are people who are working out their problems, so to speak. I work them out with paint.

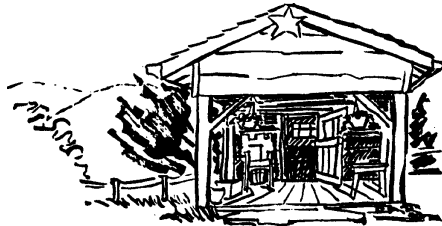
"Thinking about the current art scene can set me off on a wild tangent. I keep a manila folder called 'The Emperor's Clothes' that contains at least a dozen people who are faking it. I can mention Monsieur Basquiat because he's dead. But there's another man, alive, who can ruin my entire day. He takes a sheet of plywood, paints the whole thing grey and when it's dry he takes a pencil, a pen and a crayon, for example, holds them together to make a single stroke. And then he signs it. These things fetch over a million at

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auctions. That really spoils my day. I hate everything he does and stands for because he is the one who shows how really stupid people are about national reputations in the arts. We don't have one. We don't know about geography or history—or particularly art—unless it was done yesterday. We are surrounded by stupidity, particularly in the field of art. The current art scene panders to that. Am I venomous? You bet your buns I am."

—Ella Clark and the August Editors



Events & Announcements

Square/Contra Dance for the benefit of the Cornwall Agricultural Committee. All ages and abilities. Saturday, August 20, 7:30 P.M. at the Town Hall. Local talent.

Summer Reading Lists for HVRHS and CCS students are available at the Cornwall Free Library.

The Friends of Rose Algrant Art Show celebrates its 45th year in a new location, the CCS gym, August 5, 5 to 8 P.M.; August 6, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; and August 7, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Over 40 Cornwall artists will display their prints, drawings, paintings, photographs, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, weaving, and woodworking. A percentage of the sales will be donated to the CCS Fund for Excellence.

Sam Waterston Reads Thurber Stories Saturday, August 13, at 4:30 at the Town Hall, followed by Adam Van Doren's video on Thurber's life. Advance tickets \$20 at the Library, the Town Hall, and the Historical Society. No tickets at the door.

Summer Calendar

The calendar and listing of events is one of the most important sections of the *Chronicle*. The summer is especially filled with programs, and it's our pleasure to keep you informed about all of them. Please be sure to mark your calendar to send us a donation if you haven't done so recently.

Art in Cornwall: The National Iron Bank: David Nickeson, photographs of North India, through August.

The Outsiders Gallery: Mr. Imagination and Annie Grgich, outsider artists from Georgia, a group show starting August 6.

The Cornwall Free Library: *Altered Books*, a group show, through August 20. Beginning August 23: Ira Barkoff, recent landscapes, and Ilisha Helfman, *Knitting Nature*.

Cornwall Child Center: Fall registration Monday, August 29, from 10 A.M. to noon. Or call Pam Brehm at 626-1289 to arrange another time. CCC opens for the fall term on Wednesday, August 31, at 7:30 A.M.

2006 FIFA World Cup Qualifier: Charter bus for soccer lovers to the World Cup Qualifier at Rentschler Field in East Hartford on Wednesday, August 17, leaving CCS parking lot at 5:30 P.M. sharp. Cost is \$35 per person for the bus and a game ticket. To reserve tickets send a check payable to Cornwall Park & Rec. and a list of those in your party to Bethany Thompson, P.O. Box 243, Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754. For questions call Bethany at 248-3009.

Exploring Islam and the Koran, a three-Monday series at the Library, with Sohaib Sultan, author of *The Koran For Dummies*, and The Rev. Christopher L. Webber. August 1, 8, and 15 at 7:30 P.M.

The 4-H Fair in Goshen: August 13 and 14. Cornwall 4-H members will show their cattle, oxen, and horses. Free.

Grumbling Gryphons August theater camp. Call Leslie Elias at 672-0286 ASAP to enroll. Ages 3 to 16.

Agriculture in Cornwall: Challenges and Opportunities: Forum with Roberta Willis and local agriculturalists at the Town Hall, Friday, August 19, at 7:30 P.M.

Need Help with Drug Costs? The Sharon Area Community Health Foundation offers help for people who find it hard to afford prescription drugs. Contact Jill Gibbons at 672-2603 for information.

PTA Day Trip to Lake Compounce: August 23 (rain date August 25). The cost is \$17.50. A ten-percent discount is available on food and souvenirs. All welcome. To register call David Samson at 672-0616.

How To Be a Constructive Activist: A forum Sunday, August 14, from 3:30 to 5:30 P.M. at UCC. The keynote speaker will be Attorney General Richard Blumenthal; other speakers include Sam Pratt of Friends of Hudson and Jim Dean, chairman of Democracy for America. Refreshments. Sponsored by the Democratic Coalition of Northwest Connecticut.

St. Bridget's Tag Sale at the church hall, Saturday, August 13, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Extended Day Learning: Contact Bethany Thompson at 248-3009 for information about Park & Rec.'s after-school program in the upcoming school year. The program runs Monday to Friday from 3 to 5:30 P.M. and is available on half days and vacation days.

The Annual Interfaith Service on the Green will be held on Sunday, August 7, at 10 A.M.

Cornwall Consolidated School opens August 31. Opening Day celebration from 8:45 A.M. Everyone invited.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

AUGUST ISSUE

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SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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